

Registration for the examination closes on the 1st day of the month preceding the examination. After that, an examination invitation is sent to all registered participants in which the exact time, duration and place of the examination and prior consultation are specified.

A person who is absent from the examination without a good reason or whose examination result is below 35% of the maximum score can retake the examination **no sooner than six months after the examination date.** This restriction does not apply if the person cancels his/her registration for the examination at least 7 days prior to the examination date. The registration can be cancelled by phone 7350500 or e-mail info@innove.ee

A person who was absent from the examination with a good reason and wishes to retake the examination before six months have passed must, within 30 days, submit to the Foundation Innove an explanation of the reason for absence (in the case of health reasons a medical certificate must be added). The document may be accompanied by the registration application.

At the free consultation, the content and format of the examination are introduced, a practice test is taken and questions can be asked. The time and place of the consultations and assisting materials for preparing for the examination are available on the Foundation Innove webpage.

The result of the examination will be communicated within 30 days as of the date of the examination by post or e-mail. The examination has been passed and an electronic certificate will be issued if the result is at least 60% of the maximum score, whereas the result of each of the four skills must exceed zero points. The certificate of proficiency in the Estonian language will be issued in electronic form, which can be viewed on and downloaded from the official government portal www.eesti.ee

If an examinee is not satisfied with the result of the proficiency examination, he/she has the right, within thirty days after being communicated the examination result, to file a challenge with the Ministry of Education and Research for the review of his/her examination result.

Equalisation of previously issued certificates

Those who completed the Estonian language exams before 1 July 2008 do not need to retake the exam. Their certificates will be equalised with the new language proficiency levels.

Beginner level proficiency certificate will be equivalent to the proficiency of Level **B1**.

Intermediate level proficiency certificate will be equivalent to the proficiency of Level **B2**.

Advanced level proficiency certificate will be equivalent to the proficiency of Level **C1**.

Additional information:
Foundation Innove
Lõotsa 4, Tallinn
Phone 735 0500
info@innove.ee
www.innove.ee



Estonian
language
proficiency
examination

In Estonia, work-related language proficiency is determined by using the Council of Europe system of language proficiency levels, where language proficiency is divided into six levels.

Examinations are held on four levels in Estonia: A2, B1, B2, and C1. On all levels, **four skills** are assessed:

- writing,
- listening,
- reading,
- speaking.

An A2 level speaker can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). He/she can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters.

He/she can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

A2 level of language proficiency is required from e.g. train drivers, guards, cloakroom attendants, doorkeepers, couriers, ticket inspectors and support staff.

A B1 level speaker can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters, such as work, leisure, etc.

He/she can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.

He/she can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

B1 level of language proficiency is required from e.g. rescue workers; junior officials; office support staff; lecturers whose teaching language is not Estonian or who do not teach Estonian; service and sales staff; members of the management boards of non-profit associations; drivers of public transport vehicles.

A B2 level speaker can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics. He /she can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity with native speakers. He/she can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

B2 level of language proficiency is required from e.g. heads of divisions; teachers whose teaching language is not Estonian or who do not teach Estonian; nurses; specialists working in different positions that require higher education.

A C1 level speaker can understand demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. He/she can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. He/she can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. He/she can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

C1 level of language proficiency is required from e.g. higher and senior officials; officers; heads of institutions; judges; prosecutors; police and rescue officials; ship and aircraft pilots; teachers and lecturers whose teaching language is Estonian or who teach Estonian; doctors; pharmacists; psychologists.

At least level B1 proficiency of the Estonian language is required for applying for a long-term residence permit or Estonian citizenship.

You can register for the exam:

- On the official state portal www.eesti.ee;
- By sending or taking to the Foundation Innove a standard application accompanied by a copy of passport or ID card. The application form is available on the Foundation Innove webpage.

You cannot register for the examination by phone.

Those who are unable to take the Estonian language proficiency examination according to the standard procedure owing to their medical status can apply for a modification of the scope or manner of taking the examination with respect to their medical status. For this they must submit to the Foundation Innove a corresponding application accompanied by a medical specialist's certificate on their medical status, a copy of identity document, and, if relevant, a medical assessment decision on establishing a disability

An applicant for the Estonian citizenship who is 65 years old and older is exempted from fulfilling the requirements set by the Estonian Republic Citizenship Act § 8 Chapter 2 Clause 4 (the skill to compose a simple text on a familiar topic or a topic of personal interest), i.e. from the written test. If the person has filed the corresponding application, he/she is to take three parts of the examination: listening, reading and speaking.

Examinations on each level are held at least once a quarter in Tallinn, Narva, Jõhvi and Tartu and once a year in Pärnu.

Taking the examination is free of charge. You can only register for one examination at a time.